

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JEFFERY W. MILINICH,)
Petitioner,) No. C 09-2612 CRB (PR)
vs.) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
PAM AHLIN, Executive Director,)
Respondent.)

After a jury in Santa Clara County Superior Court found petitioner to be a sexually violent predator, he was involuntarily committed to the Department of Mental Health for an indeterminate term pursuant to California's Sexually Violent Predator Act, Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 6600 et seq ("SVPA"), as amended in 2006 by Senate Bill 1128 and Proposition 83, an initiative measure.

Petitioner unsuccessfully appealed to the California Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of California, which on April 1, 2009 denied review. The instant pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 followed.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

This court may entertain a petition for a writ of habeas corpus "in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a).

It shall "award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto." Id. § 2243.

B. Claims

Petitioner seeks federal habeas corpus relief on the grounds that the imposed indeterminate term of involuntary commitment violates various provisions of the federal constitution. Liberally construed, the claims appear cognizable under § 2254 and merit an answer from respondent. See Zichko v. Idaho, 247 F.3d 1015, 1020 (9th Cir. 2001) (federal courts must construe pro se petitions for writs of habeas corpus liberally).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and for good cause shown,

1. The clerk shall serve a copy of this order and the petition and all attachments thereto on respondent and respondent's attorney, the Attorney General of the State of California. The clerk also shall serve a copy of this order on petitioner.

2. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within 60 days of the issuance of this order, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted. Respondent shall file with the answer and

1 serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that have been
2 transcribed previously and that are relevant to a determination of the issues
3 presented by the petition.

4 If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a
5 traverse with the court and serving it on respondent within 30 days of his receipt
6 of the answer.

7 3. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in
8 lieu of an answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the
9 Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files such a motion,
10 petitioner shall file with the court and serve on respondent an opposition or
11 statement of non-opposition within 30 days of receipt of the motion, and
12 respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner a reply within 15 days
13 of receipt of any opposition.

14 4. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the court must
15 be served on respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to respondent's
16 counsel. Petitioner must also keep the court and all parties informed of any
17 change of address.

18 SO ORDERED.

19 DATED: Jan. 6, 2010



CHARLES R. BREYER
United States District Judge